



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/804,995	03/13/2001	Si Jun Huang	A-7220	4207
7590	05/20/2005		EXAMINER	
Scientific-Atlanta, Inc. Intellectual Property Dept. MS 4.3.518 5030 Sugarloaf Parkway Lawrenceville, GA 30044			DUONG, FRANK	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2666	

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/804,995

Applicant(s)

HUANG ET AL.

Examiner

Frank Duong

Art Unit

2666

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 February 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18-49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is a response to communications dated 2/25/05. Claims 18-49 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 18-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As per claims 18 and 35, line 9 and lines 4-5, respectively, claimed limitation "a standardized model" is vague. It is called for "a model" that was standardized.

However, it is unclear what date or version of the standard of "a model" the disputed term refers to.

Dependent claims 19-34 and 36-49 variously depend from their respective parent claims 18 and 35.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 18-19 and 34-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rao in view of Auyeung.

Regarding **claims 18-19**, in according to FIGS. 3 and 12, col. 5, line 44 to col. 7, line 40 and col. 33, line 28 to col. 35, line 58, Rao shows a multiplexer (300) for multiplexing a plurality of MPEG-2 bit streams (301) on to a transmission medium (330) comprising: a receiver (1210) for receiving the bit streams; a transmitter (350) for providing the bit stream to the transmission medium. Rao fails to explicitly disclose a rate controller for preventing overflow and underflow of a decoder buffer using a virtual buffer ("a standardized model of receiver") created in a rate controller to model fullness of a decoder buffer based on information read from the bit stream. On the other hand, Auyeung, in according to FIG. 3 and the description at col. 2, line 44 to col. 3, line 31, discloses a rate controller for preventing overflow and underflow of a decoder buffer using a virtual buffer ("a standardized model of receiver") created in a rate controller to model fullness of a decoder buffer based on information read from the bit stream.

It would have been obvious to those skilled in the art to implement Auyeung's rate controller into Rao's system to prevent overflow and underflow of a decoder buffer as well as maintain picture quality.

Regarding **claims 34-36**, the claims are rejected by the same rationales applied to claim 18.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 20-33 and 37-49 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art of record, considered individually or in combination, fails to fairly show or suggest the claimed invention of base claims 18 and 35 and further limit with novel and unobvious limitations as recited in the dependent claims 20-33 and 37-49.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 02/22/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In the Remarks of the outstanding response, pertaining the rejection of claims 18-19 and 34-36 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection as being unpatentable over Rao in view of Auyeung, Applicants argue "*The model in Auyeung is not a standardized model. Conversely, the model in Auyeung is based on received data from an encoder*".

In response Examiner respectfully disagrees for the following rationales:

First, the introduction of "a standardized model" has created an indefinite problem to the claims because it is unclear what date or version of the standard the claims refer to.

Second, given a broadest reasonable interpretation consisting with the specification, Auyeung's model still reads on the disputed term "a standardized model".

Thus, contradistinction to the Applicants' arguments, as clearly pointed out in the Office Action, the claimed invention is unpatentable over Rao in view of Auyeung.

Examiner believes an earnest attempt has been made in addressing all of the Applicants' arguments. Due to the amendment fails to place the instant application in a favorable condition for allowance and the arguments are not persuasive, the rejection is maintained.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frank Duong whose telephone number is 571-272-3164. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00AM-3:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Seema S. Rao can be reached on 571-272-3174. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Frank Duong
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2666

May 17, 2005